

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01230 051537Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 XMB-02 MC-02 /072 W
-----057961 051552Z /44

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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9414
INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1230

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP MA US
SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR TO REOPEN LOCKHEED HERCULES NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 149989, (B) STATE 142053, (C) ANT 1096

1. DEFENSE MINISTRY SEC-GEN LCOL RASOLOMALALA INFORMED DATT JULY 1ST THAT GDRM WISHES TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOCKHEED FOR PURCHASE OF TWO L-100-20 HERCULES AIRCRAFT. IN RESPONSE DIRECT QUESTION, HE CONFIRMED THAT DECISION HAD BEEN PERSONALLY MADE BY DRM PRESIDENT RATSIKAKA TO PROCEED WITH PURCHASE.

2. LCOL RASOLOMALALA HAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED COPY OF COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM SENT LOCKHEED IN FRENCH JULY 5TH, IN WHICH THREE TOPICS ARE ADDRESSED.

A. FIRST, LOCKHEED IS REQUESTED TO SEND IMMEDIATELY PRICES OF ALL ITEMS DETAILED IN ARTICLE ONE OF THE PREVIOUS CONTRACT. THIS INCLUDES THE TWO AIRCRAFT, MODIFICATIONS, FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS PACKAGE, AND TRAINING. RASOLOMALALA IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT AN APPARENT DISCREPANCY IN THE QUOTED PRICE OF THE PASSENGER MODIFICATIONS AND THE ABSENCE OF A QUOTATION FOR THE SPARE PARTS PACKAGE.

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B. SECOND, LOCKHEED IS REQUESTED TO FINANCE TRAVEL OF A FIVE-MAN GDRM DELEGATION PARIS/USA/PARIS. THIS WOULD INCLUDE PAYMENT BY LOCKHEED OF TRANS-ATLANTIC PLANE FARE TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, TO INCLUDE VISITS TO FMC CORP. AND VENTURA, AND ALL OTHER EXPENSES FOR THE GROUP WHILE IN USA. MEMBERS OF THIS DELEGATION WOULD BE LCOL RAKOTOBE, COMMANDER OF THE AERONAVAL FORCES, MAJOR RASOAMIARAMANANA, DESIGNATED PLANT

REP, AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM THE CENTRAL BANK, THE TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY, AND THE FINANCE MINISTRY.

C. THIRD, LOCKHEED IS REQUESTED TO ARRANGE A DEMONSTRATION VISIT OF AN L-100-20 HERCULES IN MADAGASCAR DURING THE LATTER HALF OF AUGUST, PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT, THE CURRENT TERMS OF WHICH ARE VALID TO MIDNIGHT SEPTEMBER 1ST.

3. AT FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION LCOL RAKOTOBE, COMMANDER OF THE AERONAVAL FORCES, OBSERVED THAT HE CONSIDERS USG'S ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSE AS A SIGNIFICANT CONCILIATORY GESTURE AND THAT HE BELIEVES IT IS NOW THE GDRM'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS GOOD WILL WITH A RESPONSIVE ACTION. IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW REPRESENTATIVE RAKOTOBE'S SENTIMENTS ARE OF THOSE OF OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE DID VOLUNTEER, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE MANY OPPONENTS OF THE HERCULES PURCHASE.

4. SINCE EXPORT LICENSE HAS BEEN ISSUED, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO PROVIDE, WHEN REQUESTED, WHATEVER FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE. SHOULD THIS BE ACCEPTABLE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ASSIST LOCKHEED BY PROVIDING SUBSTANCE PARAS 1 AND 2 THIS TELEGRAM IN ORDER TO CLARIFY FRENCH TEXT TELEXED BY GDRM.BARRETT

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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